

obtaining the proper permitting from the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Black Sands was

Rehearing re in monument

ASKING FOR JUDGE TO LISTEN 'EN B

By Lezlee E. Whiting

The law firm representing Duchesne City in their 4-year-old legal battle to prevent a religious set from erecting a monument in Roy Park, has filed for a rehearing before the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver.

Edward White III, chief counsel for Duchesne City, petitioned May 1 to have the appellate court's April decision heard "en banc" by all 15 of the active judges who sit on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The appellate court ruled last month that the Salt Lake City-based religion Sumnum had their First Amendment rights violated when the Duchesne City Council refused to let them place their religion's Seven Aphorism monument in the city-owned park. There is a Ten Command-

in mid-April. But two weeks ago 4-year-old boy and a 1-year-old boy from two families had to be rushed to the hospital in Roosevelt after they experienced asthma attacks so severe that their inhalers and other home

HONORING THE FALLEN

Holley Orr walks with children Tyler, left, Jessica, Kaylee and Ashlee to place a marker honoring her husband, Kevin Orr, during the Fallen Officers Memorial Service at Salt Lake Community College's Miller Campus in Sandy last Thursday. Orr, a detective corporal with the Uintah County Sheriff's Department, died of injuries suffered in a helicopter crash in November 2006 during a missing-person search. At Thursday's service, Holley Orr was presented with her husband's Purple Heart by Uintah County Sheriff Jeff Merrell. Photo: Jason Olson | Deseret Morning News

OSEC gets nod for lease

In the first phase there will be off-site retorting in Calgary, Canada, of shale already mined from the White River site.

The federal government has moved another step closer to unlocking 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil - a large part of it in Uintah County - with the imminent award of a Bureau of Land Management lease to a company with the technology that can extract oil from the buried shale rock.

Last week the Department of Interior completed analysis on an oil shale research, development and demonstration project proposed by OSEC (Oil Shale Exploration Company) to extract oil from shale at the White River Mine. Following a 30-day public comment period the Atlanta-based company will receive keys to the mine and move forward with plans that they have had

30 DAY COMMENT PERIOD IS NEXT

since they applied for the lease in September 2005.

The 160 acre lease is part of an earlier prototype oil shale facility at the White River Mine that ceased operating in 1985.

"Once the lease is signed we move forward with shipping crushed shale to the pilot plant in Calgary, and move forward with bringing the pilot plant back to the site at White River," said OSEC consultant Amy Hansen.

In the first phase, off-site retorting in Calgary, Canada, of shale already mined from the site will provide data showing the chemical and physical properties of the spent shale produced by the process OSEC proposes to use later in the operation.

In Calgary, engineers will be able to "fine tune" the process prior to shipping the plant back to the site at the White River Mine, said Hansen.

"Our national and economic security depend on our developing domestic energy resources like the oil shale found in Uintah County," said C. Stephen Allred, Assistant Secretary of the

Interior for Land and Minerals Management.

"This RD&D project along with the five other oil shale projects in Colorado will allow us to test our belief that we have the knowledge and expertise to develop this resource effectively, economically, and with responsibility to the environment and to local communities."

Oil shale resources in the Uintah Basin are part of the Green River Formation, which extends into portions of Colorado and Wyoming. The formation is estimated to hold three times the proven oil reserves of Saudi Arabia.

"Re-starting operations at the

White River Mine will give us a

better understanding of how to produce oil from shale rock in a manner that is both economically promising and environmentally sound," said Selma Sierra, BLM Utah state director. "With the continuing cooperation of the state and local communities in Uintah County, this project will advance development of our nation's tremendous oil shale resources."

The project's phased design helps ensure that environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized. Before beginning each phase, OSEC must submit

SEE OSEC on page 5

Neighbors worried about ill-effects of gas c

By Geoff Liesik

State and local health officials have more questions than answers about what caused life-threatening asthma attacks in two young boys living near an

environmental cleanup site in central Duchesne County.

El Paso Exploration and Production began the second phase of its remediation effort on contaminated soil in Utah, nine miles north of Duchesne,

State water report

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interests that depend on direct stream flow will be the first and possibly most impacted by what is shaping up to be a long summer."

Soil moisture values have peaked and in some cases have started to decline. Those watersheds that did increase soil moisture in April did so only slightly, Francis said, and all basins are expected to dry out very quickly.

"In addition to the obvious impacts of reduced stream flow, and dependent on future climatic conditions, Utah might expect an earlier and longer fire season, reduced forage production, agricultural and forest stress and any number of other drought-related impacts," Francis said.

Reservoir storage continues to be in good condition although some reservoirs have already begun to decline. Early demand in April outpaced water flowing into the state's reservoirs, which is considered, in general, a red flag.

Francis said general water supply conditions statewide range from much below average to near average. Stream flow forecasts range from 1 percent in the Monticello area to 60 percent of average on Little Cottonwood Creek. Francis said surface water supply indices range from 12 percent on the Weber River to 67 percent on the west side of the Uintah Basin.

OSEC

Continued from page 1

a detailed plan of operations for BLM approval and obtain all required local, state and federal permits to safeguard resources such as air and water quality.

The RD&D project will take about another six years to work through all the components of successful extraction process before commercial production of oil from shale will begin, said Hansen. There are four areas of research development and design for oil shale to be success: economy, environmental impact, technology and socio-economic impact

"We are honored to be a part of this and help our nation find effective solutions to their energy problem, we hope oil shale can be a part of it," said Hansen. "We are so grateful to the staff of the BLM and interior they have worked very, very hard to bring it to this point."

in a statewide survey of Utah residents concerning their use of and attitudes about public lands management. The survey begins May 7.

A random sample of more than 10,000 Utah households has been drawn, and survey questionnaires will be mailed to residents of every county in the state. The mailing begins May 7. The survey asks Utahns how they use public lands, including both recreation and income-generating uses. It also asks residents to express their views about how

citizens, state agencies and county commissions to improve decision making about public land management.

"This study will be one of the main factors in helping the governor's office, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management prepare their planning documents and policies in the future," Harja said.

"Completion of the surveys by those who are selected is critical," Krannich said. "We need to be sure that all Utah citizens are represented."

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